

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: Soldotna****Project Title:**

Soldotna - Montessori Model United Nations Participation Expenses

State Funding Requested: \$ 15,000**House District: 33 - Q**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Students at Soldotna Elementary School were selected to participate in the Montessori Model United Nations in New York City. This appropriation will help offset student costs of participating.

Funding Plan:**Total Cost of Project: \$40,000**Funding SecuredOther Pending RequestsAnticipated Future Need*Amount FY**Amount FY**Amount FY*

There is no other funding needed

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Students at Soldotna Elementary School were selected to participate in the Montessori Model United Nations in New York City. This appropriation will help offset student costs of participating.

Project Timeline:

April 2008

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Soldotna Montessori Charter School

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Contact Name: Mo Sanders

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Address: 162 Park Avenue, Soldotna, AK 99669

Email:

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☐ Yes ☒ No



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

SOLDOTNA MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL

Mo Sanders, Administrator

162 Park Ave. Soldotna, Alaska 99669-7553

Phone (907) 260-9221 Fax (907) 260-9032

Dear Supporters of Education,

We, Soldotna Montessori Charter Elementary School are the one school in all of Alaska selected to participate in the Montessori Model United Nations in New York city. We are the school that will have an experience of a lifetime. Twenty four of our own brilliant and hard working kids have been selected to shine in New York in April. The estimated cost for this trip is \$40,000.

We are inviting you to support Soldotna Montessori's students because we students are the future workers of Alaska. We will grow up to be decision makers, and important people in this world. We are Alaska's future. We need these valuable life skills. These skills include public speaking, negotiation, formal writing, problem solving and team work. These skills will help us on our way to become responsible adults.

Our school Soldotna Montessori Charter School has taken part in the Montessori Model United Nations program, and being some of the students who went last year, we know the value of this trip.

In the Model United Nations program students are granted the opportunity to study a specific country in great detail, then travel to New York City to the United Nations building. Students are then "delegates" from their country and learn and do the same procedures as the real UN ambassadors, to solve problems such as "the rights of the child" or creating "a culture of peace". This real life experience will give us an education that will be irreplaceable in our future.

During the preparation of this trip students from our school learned how to write persuasive and position papers which state the country's opinion on the topic at hand. We also write resolutions which are solutions for the problems. To do this we spent a great deal of time on the computers researching our assigned country and its opinion as a whole on the current events which include many topics.

Going to New York was a wonderful experience. It allowed us to observe an life style not at all like our own. Also we were able to visit some famous land marks, like the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island.

However, trips like these cost money, which is why we need your help. You could help determine whether or not Soldotna Montessori's students will be able to have this experience of a lifetime. By investing in our education you will be helping to form Alaska's future.

Soldotna Montessori thanks your generous consideration and your support.
Sincerely the 4th, 5th and 6th grade United Nations Team.

The Soldotna Montessori Charter School has been selected for the second year in a row as one of 25 Montessori schools nation wide to participate in Montessori Model United Nations. Last year SMCS wrote 3 of the 5 proclamations that were approved for forwarding to the actual United Nations General Assembly for consideration. Soldotna Montessori Charter school selects up to 24 students to participate in Model UN by oral and written examination by a jury of teachers and their peers. Participation includes traveling to New York for the actual event. Numerous fundraisers have taken place and funds are still needed in order for the students to experience this government process and have the opportunity to start making a difference on a global level. To date they are still in need of \$20,321.38 for all 24 students to make the week long trip. Parents, teachers, and chaperones are responsible for their own costs, so the amount needed is for student expenses only. On behalf of Soldotna Montessori Charter School, I am requesting funds in the amount of \$65, 321.38 to assist with the April 2008 trip and the likely April 2009 trip.

Here is some basic information on the background and the process the kids will be experiencing.

The Practice of Peace Education: Montessori Model United Nations

The Model United Nations program was developed 50 years ago for students in high school and universities to learn about the work of the United Nations by engaging in simulations of UN activities, and through cultivating important life skills such as negotiation and consensus building. Montessori Model United Nations (MMUN) is based on the Model United Nations program. At the encouragement of UN Ambassador Francis Lorenzo of the Dominican Republic, I collaborated with the Montessori Initiative; M: The Magazine for Montessori Families; Dr. Greg Julian, the Chair of Pace University's Political Science Department; and a group of his graduate students, The World Class, to create the Montessori Model United Nations for Montessori upper elementary and middle school students. Since this age group falls within the sensitive period for reason, justice, and morality, it seemed reasonable that these students would also be capable of engaging in global peace education.

Implementation of MMUN

MMUN began in the fall of 2006 with a teacher education workshop and UN tour for 75 teachers from North America and Latin America. During the following school year, they implemented the program using the manual developed by MMUN, through mentoring

provided in training, and through discussion forums on the website www.montessori-mun.org. On March 1-2, 2007, these teachers, along with more than 400 student delegates, simulated a real UN working session, which concluded the General Assembly held at UN Headquarters. The World Class team, led by Dr. Greg Julian and veteran Model UN University graduates, acted as parliamentary guides, directed the Committees on which the students sat, and helped to mentor the students and the teachers.

What Is the Montessori Model UN Program?

In its simplest form, MMUN is a simulation of actual UN committees. However, MMUN is much more than that. In order for a delegation to be successful at a conference, the work must start months in advance. Each participating school provides a minimum of one delegation of four to six students who select a country to represent. Each individual delegate is assigned a specific committee for his or her country. Each committee has specific topics that are on the agenda for the duration of the conference. Delegates on each committee are expected to research specific topics in their committee with regard to their country's position on that topic.

MMUN allows students to step into the shoes of ambassadors from UN member states to debate international issues, prepare draft resolutions, negotiate with supporters and adversaries, resolve conflicts, and navigate the UN's rules of procedure—all in the interest of mobilizing "international cooperation" to solve global problems. At each step, the student must negotiate on behalf of the interests of his country based on his research rather than his personal beliefs.

The students not only learn about the United Nations, its history, and the challenges facing global peace, but also participate in a hands-on collaboration to pass resolutions that are then shared with the UN secretary General.

At the conclusion of the March 2007 General Assembly, Ambassador Lorenzo stressed the importance of the program, saying, "The next generation of leaders will come from this program. Soon they will be sitting here, and it will be their responsibility to complete what we have left undone."

Thank you in advance for consideration,

Jacelle Zoubek

Parent of Soldotna Montessori Charter School student.

907-252-5177